

was incessantly ablaze. The pealing
thunder
diminished as the clouds were driven
rapidly to-
wards the north. But as long as distant
lightning
continued to light up the bay, the wind
blew with
great force, lifting billows which plunged
and broke
wildly on the shore.

At dawn the men came out of the
cave. Tattered clouds were passing over the cliff.
Some,
hanging lower, skimmed the surface.
During the
night the lightning had struck it in
several places.
Huge fragments of rock lay at its base.
But there
was no sign of a new cleft or crevice
into which
it might be possible to squeeze, and so
to reach
the plateau above.

Captain Gould, Fritz, and John Block
took stock
of what was left of the boat. It comprised
the mast,
the foresail and the jib, the rigging, the
hawsers,
the rudder, the oars, the anchor and its
cable, the
wooden seats, and the casks of fresh
water. Some
use could no doubt be made of most of
these things,
damaged as they were.

" Fortune has tried us cruelly!"
Fritz said.
" If only we had not these poor women
with us—
three women and a child ! What fate
awaits them
here on this shore, which we cannot

even leave
now!"

Even Frank, with all his faith, kept
silence this
time. What could he say ?

But John Block was wondering
whether fte